



SENATE WATCH

*A summary of today's Senate actions;
published daily when the Senate is in session.*

4/3/03

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

- The Senate approved the nomination of James Butler for the Michigan Broadband Authority Board. [RC 58: 37 yes, 0 no]

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 157 (SCOTT)

DETROIT SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

SB 157 would moved up (from November 2004 general election to the August 2003 primary election) the election of whether to retain the current (appointed) school reform board and chief executive officer in the city of Detroit.

4/1:

- SB 157 was moved to 3rd Reading. Sen. Scott stated that the people of Detroit have waited long enough – they deserve to have their voices be heard.

4/2:

- Leland 1 (S-2) was defeated [RC 60: 15 yes, 23 no]. This would dissolve the current, appointed Detroit Reform Board. A new, elected Board would be chosen at the next scheduled election.

Sen. Leland: Detroit can elect its own school board. The board has robbed children and their families of input into system. Kuipers: Vote no, we should retain the reform board.

- SB 157 passed [RC 61: 36 yes, 1 no].

Sens. Scott, Leland, Clarke, Clark-Coleman: I want the mayor to be able to run the city and not the school system. We live in a Democracy and should be allowed to be represented. More involvement in political process for citizens of Detroit.

Cropsey, Johnson: I will support this bill, we should be looking at Charter Schools, and if we are concerned about better school and education we must continue to look at Charter Schools. The schools

in Detroit were in disarray and need help. The Detroit School Board was the most abusive board in the state of Michigan. We care about the kids.

Garcia: Voted no, I still believe this was the right thing to do, and not enough time given.

HB 4010 (DeRossett)

TAX ABATEMENT FOR BIODIESEL FUEL MANUFACTURERS

House Bill 4010 would extend tax abatements (local governmental units may provide new, renovated, or expanded industrial facilities with property tax abatements for up to 12 years) to those businesses that are engaged in the creation or synthesis of biodiesel fuel.

[Currently there are no firms in Michigan that produce biodiesel fuel. Due to the fact that the number of firms that might engage in this activity in the future is not known, it is not possible to accurately determine the potential fiscal impact.]

FOR: Michigan Farm Bureau, The Michigan Soybean Association -- encouraging the manufacture of biodiesel fuel in Michigan would be a great asset to the state's soybean industry.

4/1:

- *McManus 1 was adopted [no RC]. This would add biomass fuels to the bill.*
- *HB 4010 was moved to 3rd Reading. Sen. Prusi spoke in support of the bill: This is good for economic development in Michigan and it's good for our environment.*

4/2:

- **HB 4010 passed [RC 59: yes 38, 0 no]. Immediate Effect was given.**